

Albert Bierstadt

By : Joshua Suter

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Birth and Early Years.

Albert Bierstadt was born in Solingen, Prussia on January 7th, 1830.

His parents were Henry Bierstadt and Christina M. Bierstadt.

His siblings were Charles Bierstadt, Helen Thompson, Edward Bierstadt, and Eliza Bierstadt.



<https://www.geni.com/people/Albert-Bierstadt/6000000026279959051>

Early Life (continued)

He lived in New Bedford, Massachusetts for most of his life.

An interesting fact from his childhood is that he moved from Prussia at age two.

<https://www.albertbierstadt.org/biography.html>

Education

He attended the Hudson River School and the Düsseldorf School.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Albert-Bierstadt>



Adult Years

He left home at the age of 23 and left for Dusseldorf, Germany.



<http://makingartfun.com/htm/f-maf-art-library/albert-bierstadt-biography.htm>

Personal Life

Rosalie Osborn was his wife, and he had no children.

His wife died in 1839 of tuberculosis in the tropics of Nassau.

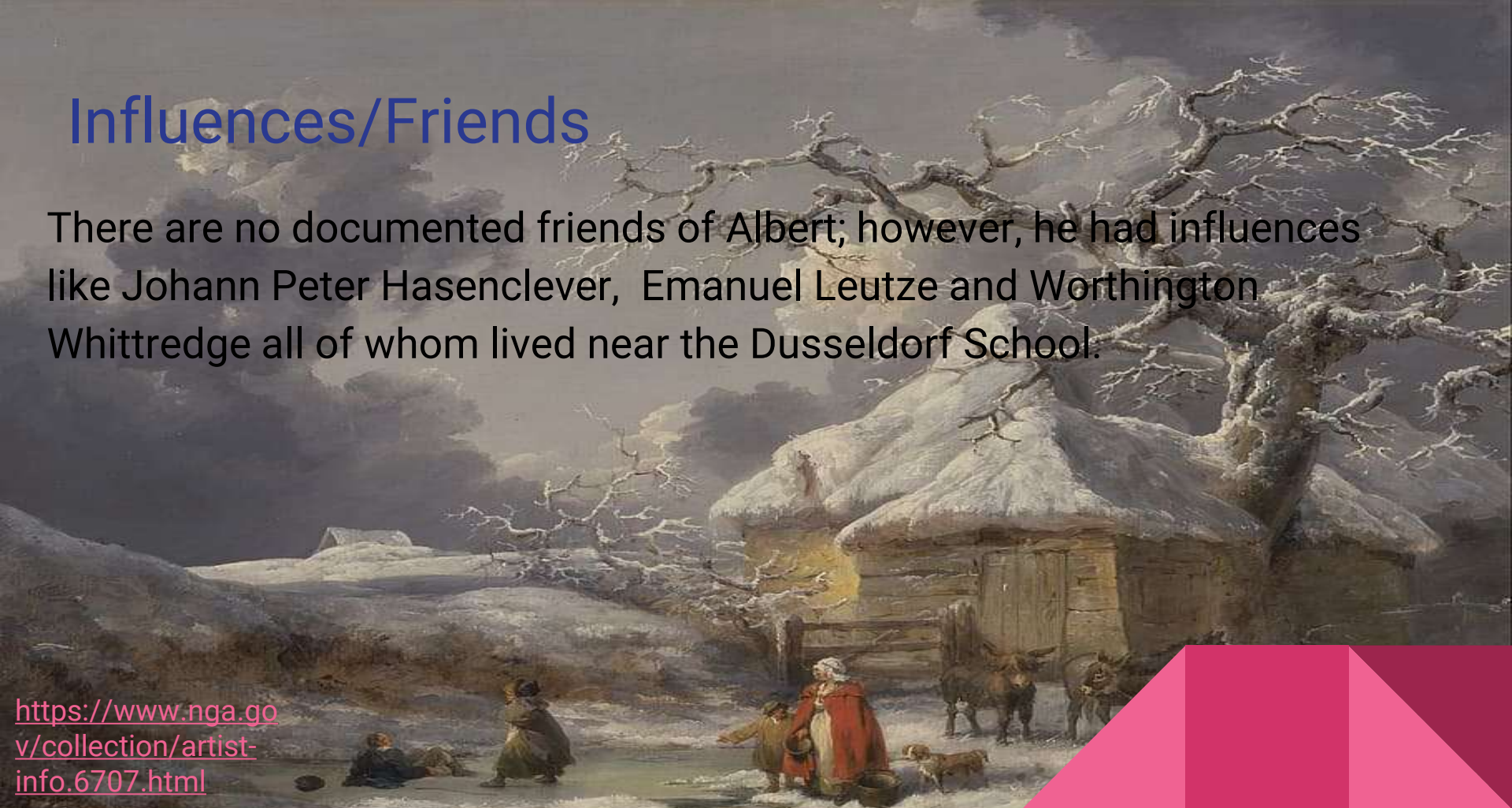
<https://www.nga.gov/collection/artist-info.6707.html>

<https://www.geni.com/people/Rosalie-Osborn/6000000026281291957>



Influences/Friends

There are no documented friends of Albert; however, he had influences like Johann Peter Hasenclever, Emanuel Leutze and Worthington Whittredge all of whom lived near the Dusseldorf School.



<https://www.nga.gov/collection/artist-info.6707.html>

First Works Of Art

Some of Albert Bierstadt's first paintings were *The Wolf River, Kansas* and *Thunderstorm In The Rocky Mountains*.



[https://www.wikipedia.org/en/
albert-bierstadt](https://www.wikipedia.org/en/albert-bierstadt)

Style

He focused mostly on Realism, but also painted in Luminism and Romanticism, using mostly canvas and oil paints as well as board, gouache, panel, paper, water color, and wood.



<https://www.theartstory.org/movement/luminism/#:~:text=Luminism%20refers%20to%20a%20type,with%20the%20Hudson%20River%20School>

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/albert-bierstadt>

Style - (Continued)

His style was called Luminism, which was popular in the 1850s.

Some artists that were also Luminists included William Sidney Mount and George Caleb Bingham.

<https://www.theartstory.org/movement/luminism/#:~:text=Luminism%20refers%20to%20a%20type,with%20the%20Hudson%20River%20School>.

Works - Famous

His most famous painting is known as *The Domes Of Yosemite*. It is today housed in The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum in Winter Park, FL.

<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/famous-artists/albert-bierstadt.htm>

<https://www.stjathenaem.org/the-domes-of-the-yosemite>



Works - Famous (Continued)

Bierstadt traveled with the survey teams of the United States Government, as they surveyed the West and explored into the newly acquired territory and was inspired to paint *The Domes Of Yosemite*. The year of creation was 1867. The size was 116 x 180 inches. The subject was Yosemite, later to become Yosemite National Park. It's medium and support were Oil and Canvas. The movement was Luminism.

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/albert-bierstadt/the-domes-of-the-yosemite-1867>

<https://www.stjathenaeu.com/albert-bierstadt-the-domes-of-the-yosemite>

<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/famous-artists/albert-bierstadt.htm>

Critique

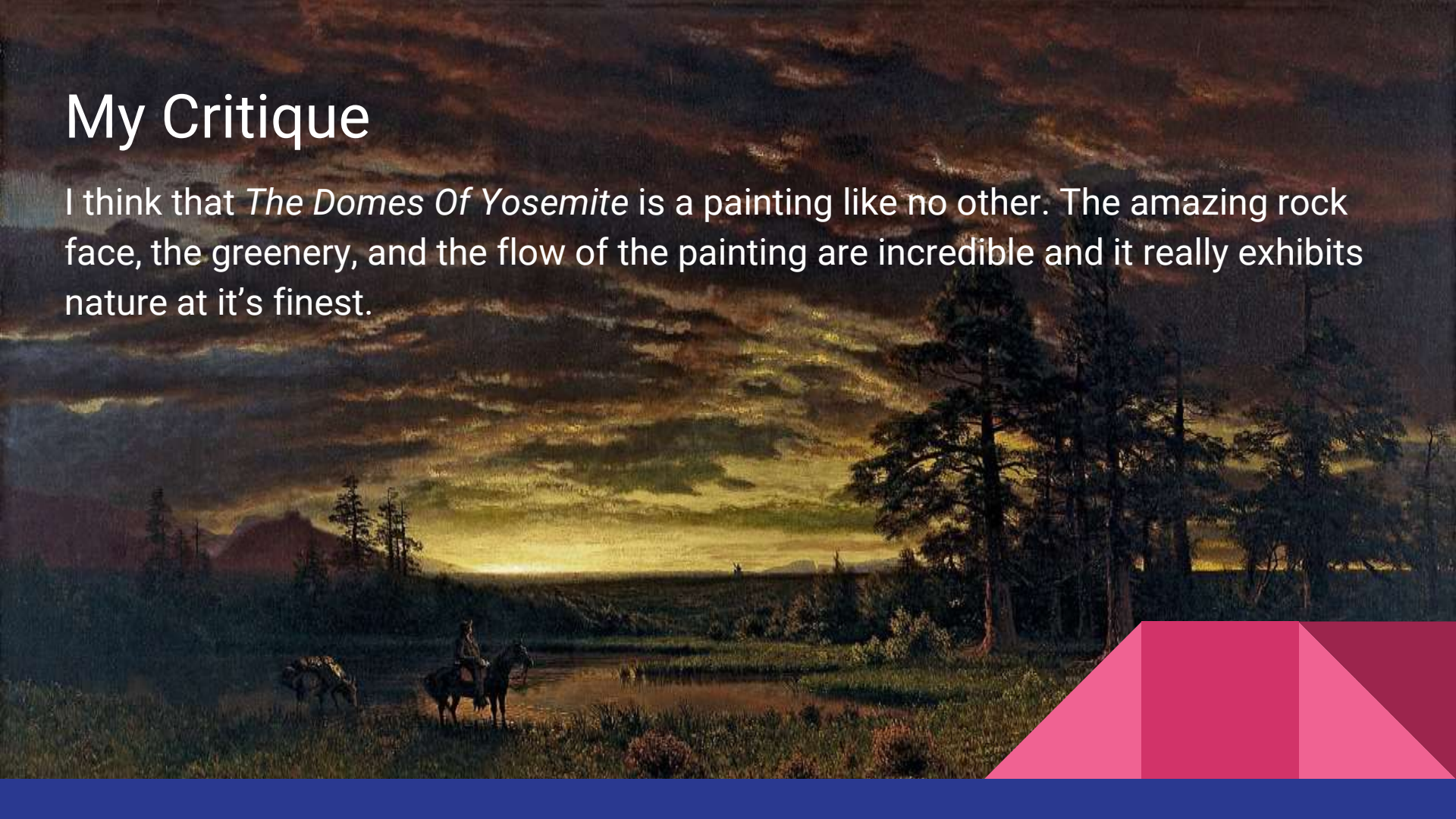
A dramatic landscape painting of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a herd of animals, possibly horses or deer, stands on a grassy bank next to a calm lake. The lake reflects the surrounding landscape. In the middle ground, a dense forest of tall evergreen trees lines the right side. The background features majestic, rugged mountains with snow-capped peaks and a large waterfall cascading down a steep cliff on the left. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset, with wispy clouds.

“After all, this was a work that Mark Twain thought improved upon nature. ‘I think it is very well worth going to see,’ the author of such American classics as *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* wrote in 1867. ‘It is very beautiful – considerably more beautiful than the original.’” - *Orlando Sentinel*.

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/entertainment/arts-and-theater/os-et-domes-yosemite-morse-museum-20180213-story.html>

My Critique

I think that *The Domes Of Yosemite* is a painting like no other. The amazing rock face, the greenery, and the flow of the painting are incredible and it really exhibits nature at it's finest.



Other Works

This work is called *Fishing Boats
At Capri*.



Importance

If he had not created the painting *The Domes Of Yosemite*; highlighting its natural beauty, Abraham Lincoln may have never made Yosemite into a national park.

He also inspired the American public's fascination with the West and its beauty.

<https://www.stjathenaeum.org/albert-bierstadt-the-domes-of-the-yosemite>

<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/famous-artists/albert-bierstadt.htm>

Other information.

1. He was featured on the American Treasures postage stamp in 2008.
2. There is a possibility he painted up to 4000 paintings in his lifetime.
3. He met Queen Victoria of England.
4. The Domes Of The Yosemite was refurbished in 2017.
5. He is the most famous painter who used luminism.

<https://www.stjathenaeum.org/the-domes-of-the-yosemite>

<http://makingartfun.com/html/t-maf-art-library/albert-bierstadt-biography.htm>

<https://www.albertbierstadt.org/biography.html>

<https://www.theartstory.org/movement/luminism/#:~:text=Luminism%20refers%20to%20a%20type,with%20the%20Hudson%20River%20School>



Sources

[Albert Bierstadt American, 1830 - 1902](#)

[Biography | Life, Paintings, Influence on Art | albertbierstadt.org](#)

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<https://fiveminutehistory.com/30-beautiful-paintings-of-the-american-west-by-albert-bierstadt/>

<https://www.theartstory.org/movement/luminism/#:~:text=Luminism%20refers%20to%20a%20type.with%20the%20Hudson%20River%20School>

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/albert-bierstadt/all-works#!#filterName:all-paintings-chronologically,resultType:masonry>

<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/famous-artists/albert-bierstadt.htm>

<https://www.stjathenaeum.org/the-domes-of-the-yosemite>

<https://www.stjathenaeum.org/albert-bierstadt-the-domes-of-the-yosemite>

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/entertainment/arts-and-theater/os-et-domes-yosemite-morse-museum-20180213-story.html>